



Remarks

Claims 36-37 and 42 stand allowed over the art of record. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Coker '486 patent, and claims 4 and 18-22 are indicated as allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration for claims 1 and 6 based on the above amendments and the remarks below.

The Coker '486 patent discloses various orthopedic fasteners for securing tissue to bone. However, there is no suggestion to use any of the Coker fasteners with a suture. No features are provided by Coker for use with a suture.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the means for carrying a suture is defined in the elongated body of the anchor. This amendment clearly distinguishes claim 1 from the interpretation provided by the Examiner, namely that suture could be wrapped around the shaft 63 or under the head 51 of the device 50 shown in Fig. 8.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4, 6, and 18-22 as amended are allowable over the art of record. A timely notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

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